From Tabriz to St. Petersburg: Iran's Mission to Apology to Russia in 1829
book talk by
George A. Bournoutian

Following the murder of the Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary of Russia and the massacre of the entire Russian Legation, save one, by an angry mob in Tehran in 1829, the government of Iran dispatched an apology delegation to Tsar Nicholas I. The mission, headed by Khosrow Mirza, the 16-year-old son of Crown Prince ‘Abbas Mirza, left Iran in early May and returned on February 27, 1830, after successfully accomplishing its task. The young Prince had not only charmed the Tsar, the royal family and the nobility, but had also managed to cancel the ninth payment of the indemnity amounting to half a million tomans or two million rubles and had obtained a five-year grace period for the payment of the tenth, or last past. His skillful diplomacy had saved Iran from Russian retaliation, had strengthened Russo-Iranian ties, and reduced the British influence in his land. Utilizing Persian and Russian contemporary sources, Bournoutian describes in detail the daily account of the long journey and experiences of the Iranian delegation in Armenia and Georgia, it stay in the various Russian cities such as Vladikavkaz, Piatigorsk, Stavropol, Voronezh, Tula, Moscow, and especially an extended stay in St. Petersburg.

George Bournoutian is a Professor of East European & Middle Eastern Studies at Iona College. He is the author or translator of numerous other books, including *The Khanate of Erivan under Qajar Rule; A Concise History of the Armenian People; Two Chronicles on the History of Karabagh; The Travel Accounts of Simeon of Poland; Tigran II and Rome, Jambra;* and *A Brief History of the Aghuank Region.*

Ervand Abrahamian (History, Baruch and the Graduate Center, CUNY) will offer comments.